

**Amendments to the Specification:**

Please replace the first paragraph [0010] on page 3 with the following amended paragraph:

[0010] Fig. 2 shows a second embodiment of a sliding system according to the present invention ~~without compressive stress (A), under low compressive stress (B), and under high compressive stress (C).~~

Beginning on page 3, please renumber paragraphs [0009] through [0036] as paragraphs [0012] through [0039].